

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, CA, XF

SUBJ: POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF CANADIAN UNEF AND UNDOF
CONTINGENTS

REF: OTTAWA 3969 DTD 172249Z OCT 75

1. PARA 2 OF REF. CITED A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO COMPLETELY WITHDRAW ITS COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL FROM UNEF AND ITS LOGISTICAL UNIT FROM UNDOF. PARA 7 OF REF. INDICATES THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME A USG INPUT CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL. IN THAT REGARD, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE OFFERED BY USUN.

2. UNEF COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENT. WE CONCUR THAT AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR UNEF OPERATIONS, EVEN IF SUCH OPERATIONS WERE TO CONTINUE ONLY AT THEIR PRESENT LEVEL. IT IS BOVIOUS FROM THE LOST CUROSRY EXAMINATION OF THE RECENT DISENGAGEMENT MAP THAT UNEF'S COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED: BOTH IN VOLUME OF VOICE TRAFFIC AND IN FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY. AS FOR THE LATTER POINT, UN NAVAL, UN AIR, US AIR, AND US GROUND SENSOR ELEMENTS WILL
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ALL REQUIRE SOME INTERFACE WITH UNEF HEADQUARTERS (ISMAILIA)

AND TITHE THE CHIEF COORDINATOR'S HEADQUARTERS (JERUSALEM).
CURRENT UNEF OPERATIONS CONTAIN ONLY ONE (UNEF HEADQUARTERS)
OF THE ABOVE SIX ELEMENTS. TO REMOVE THE CANADIAN
COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENT WITHOUT REPLACING IT WITH AT LEAST
AN EQUAL-SIZED ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNIT COULD SUBSTANTIALLY
IMPACT ON OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES.

3. UNDOF LOGISTICS ELEMENT. SINCE UNEF-UNDOF LOGISTICAL
SUPPORT IS BASICALLY A UNIFIED OPERATION WHEREBY UNDOF
RECEIVES WHATEVER UNEF DOES NOT SUCCEED IN SIPHONING OFF
IN CIAOR, UNDOF'S LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS ARE THE SAME AS UNEF'S
ONLY MAGNIFIED. AVAILABLE EVIDENCE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT UNEF
HAS BARELY BEGUN TO GET ITS LOGISTICAL HOUSE IN ORDER.
MAJOR PROBLEMS OF EQUIPMENT LOCATION, IDENTIFICATION AND
DISTRIBUTION (FROM CIAOR TO DAMASCUS, FOR EXAMPLE) STILL
REMAIN. THE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM -- ESPECIALLY FOR EQUIPMENT
DESTINED FOR UNDOF -- IS AGGRAVATED BY LACK OF
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR THE POLISH SUPPORT BATTALION.
HERE, AGAIN, TO REMOVE THE CANADIAN LOGSTICS ELEMENT
FROM UNDOF WITHOUT AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING REPLACEMENT FAMILIAR
WITH U.S. MILITARY VEHICLES AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT WOULD
RESULT IN SEVERE LOGISTIC PROBLEMS.
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